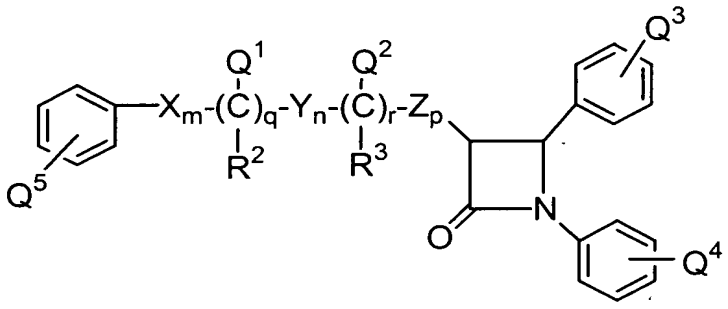
THEREFORE, WE CLAIM:

1. A compound represented by the structural formula (I):



(I)

or pharmaceutically acceptable isomers, salts, solvates or esters of the compound of Formula (I),

wherein in Formula (I) above:

X, Y and Z can be the same or different and each is independently selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, -CH(alkyl)- and $-C(alkyl)_2-$;

Q^1 and Q^2 can be the same or different and each is independently selected from the group consisting of H, $-(C_0-C_{30}$ alkylene)-G, $-OR^6$, $-OC(O)R^6$, $-OC(O)OR^9$, $-OC(O)NR^6R^7$, and –L-M;

Q^3 is 1 to 5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, $-(C_0-C_{30}$ alkylene)-G, $-(C_0-C_{10}$ alkylene)-OR^6, $-(C_0-C_{10}$ alkylene)-$C(O)R^6$, $-(C_0-C_{10}$ alkylene)-$C(O)OR^6$, $-(C_0-C_{10}$ alkylene)-$OC(O)R^6$, $-(C_0-C_{10}$ alkylene)-$OC(O)OR^9$, $-CH=CH-C(O)R^6$, $-CH=CH-C(O)OR^6$, $-C\equiv C-C(O)OR^6$, $-C\equiv C-C(O)R^6$, $-O-(C_1-C_{10}$ alkylene)-OR^6, $-O-(C_1-C_{10}$ alkylene)-$C(O)R^6$, $-O-(C_1-C_{10}$ alkylene)-$C(O)OR^6$, -CN, $-O-(C_1-C_{10}$ alkylene)-$C(O)NR^6R^7$, $-O-(C_0-C_{10}$ alkylene)-$C(O)NR^6NR^7C(O)OR^6$, $-O-(C_1-C_{10}$ alkylene)-C(O)(aryl)-N-N^-, $-OC(O)-(C_1-C_{10}$ alkylene)-$C(O)OR^6$, $-(C_0-C_{10}$ alkylene)-$C(O)NR^6R^7$, $-(C_0-C_{10}$ alkylene)-$OC(O)NR^6R^7$, $-NO_2$, $-(C_0-C_{10}$ alkylene)-NR^6R^7, $-O-(C_2-C_{10}$ alkylene)-NR^6R^7, $-NR^6C(O)R^7$, $-NR^6C(O)OR^9$, $-NR^6C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-NR^6S(O)_{0-2}R^9$, $-N(S(O)_{0-2}R^9)_2$, $-CHNOR^6$, $-C(O)NR^6R^7$, $-C(O)NR^6NR^6R^7$, $-S(O)_{0-2}NR^6R^7$, $-S(O)_{0-2}R^9$, $-O-C(O)-(C_1-C_{10}$ alkylene)-$C(O)NR^6R^7$, $-OC(O)-(C_1-C_{10}$ alkylene)-$NR^6C(O)O-$(alkylaryl), $-P(O)(OR^{10})_2$,

-(C_1-C_{10} alkylene)-OSi(alkyl)$_3$, -CF_3, -OCF_3, halo, alkoxyalkoxy, alkoxyalkoxyalkoxy, alkoxycarbonylalkoxy, alkoxyarylalkoxy, alkoxyiminoalkyl, alkyldioyl, allyloxy, aryl, arylalkyl, aryloxy, arylalkoxy, aroyl, aroyloxy, aroylaroyloxy, arylalkoxycarbonyl, benzoylbenzoyloxy, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylalkoxy, dioxolanyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heterocyclylcarbonyl, heterocyclylcarbonylalkoxy and –L-M;

Q^4 is 1 to 5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, -(C_0-C_{30} alkylene)-G, -(C_0-C_{10} alkylene)-OR^6, -(C_0-C_{10} alkylene)-$C(O)R^6$, -(C_0-C_{10} alkylene)-$C(O)OR^6$, -(C_0-C_{10} alkylene)-$OC(O)R^6$, -(C_0-C_{10} alkylene)-$OC(O)OR^9$, -CH=CH-$C(O)R^6$, -CH=CH-$C(O)OR^6$, -C≡C-$C(O)OR^6$, -C≡C-$C(O)R^6$, -O-(C_1-C_{10} alkylene)-OR^6, -O-(C_1-C_{10} alkylene)-$C(O)R^6$, -O-(C_1-C_{10} alkylene)-$C(O)OR^6$, -CN, -O-(C_1-C_{10} alkylene)-$C(O)NR^6R^7$, -O-(C_0-C_{10} alkylene)-$C(O)NR^6NR^7C(O)OR^6$, -O-(C_1-C_{10} alkylene)-C(O)(aryl)-N-N=N, -OC(O)-(C_1-C_{10} alkylene)-$C(O)OR^6$, -(C_0-C_{10} alkylene)-$C(O)NR^6R^7$, -(C_0-C_{10} alkylene)-$OC(O)NR^6R^7$, -NO_2, -(C_0-C_{10} alkylene)-NR^6R^7, -O-(C_2-C_{10} alkylene)-NR^6R^7, -$NR^6C(O)R^7$, -$NR^6C(O)OR^9$, -$NR^6C(O)NR^7R^8$, -$NR^6S(O)_{0-2}R^9$, -$N(S(O)_{0-2}R^9)_2$, -CHNOR^6, -$C(O)NR^6R^7$, -$C(O)NR^6NR^6R^7$, -$S(O)_{0-2}NR^6R^7$, -$S(O)_{0-2}R^9$, -O-C(O)-(C_1-C_{10} alkylene)-$C(O)NR^6R^7$, -OC(O)-(C_1-C_{10} alkylene)-$NR^6C(O)O$-(alkylaryl), -$P(O)(OR^{10})_2$, -(C_1-C_{10} alkylene)-OSi(alkyl)$_3$, -CF_3, -OCF_3, halo, alkoxyalkoxy, alkoxyalkoxyalkoxy, alkoxycarbonylalkoxy, alkoxyarylalkoxy, alkoxyiminoalkyl, alkyldioyl, allyloxy, aryl, arylalkyl, aryloxy, arylalkoxy, aroyl, aroyloxy, aroylaroyloxy, arylalkoxycarbonyl, benzoylbenzoyloxy, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylalkoxy, dioxolanyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heterocyclylcarbonyl, heterocyclylcarbonylalkoxy and –L-M;

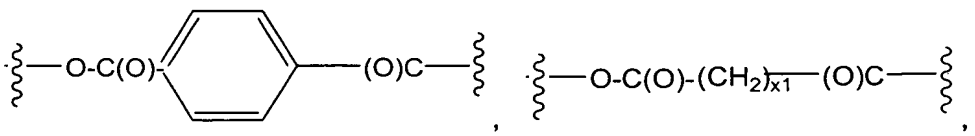
Q^5 is 1 to 5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, -(C_0-C_{30} alkylene)-G, -(C_0-C_{10} alkylene)-OR^6, -(C_0-C_{10} alkylene)-$C(O)R^6$, -(C_0-C_{10} alkylene)-$C(O)OR^6$, -(C_0-C_{10} alkylene)-$OC(O)R^6$,

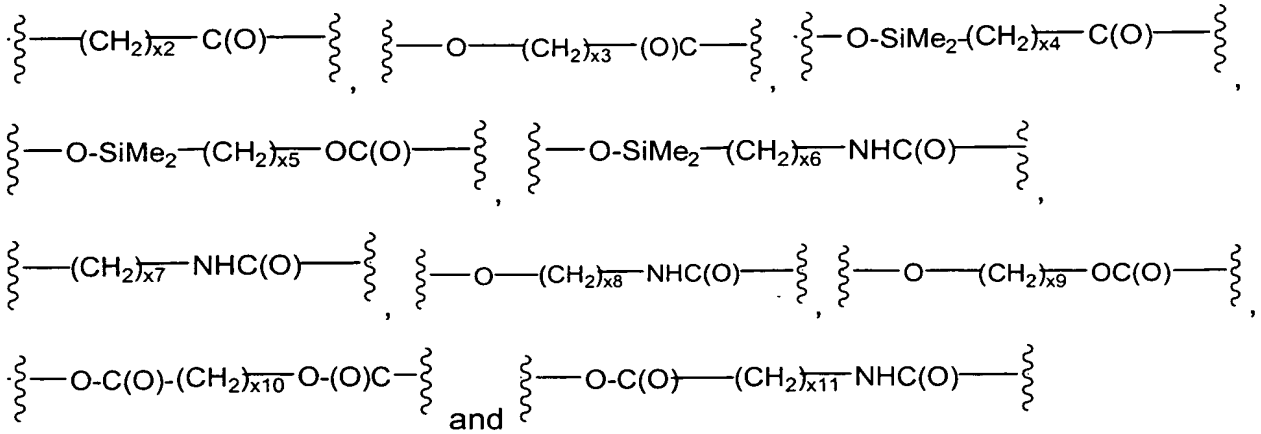
-(C_0-C_{10} alkylene)-OC(O)OR^9, -CH=CH-C(O)R^6, -CH=CH-C(O)OR^6, -C≡C-C(O)OR^6, -C≡C-C(O)R^6, -O-(C_1-C_{10} alkylene)-OR^6, -O-(C_1-C_{10} alkylene)-C(O)R^6, -O-(C_1-C_{10} alkylene)-C(O)OR^6, -CN, -O-(C_1-C_{10} alkylene)-C(O)NR^6R^7, -O-(C_0-C_{10} alkylene)-C(O)$NR^6NR^7C(O)OR^6$, -O-(C_1-C_{10} alkylene)-C(O)(aryl)-N-N=N^-, -OC(O)-(C_1-C_{10} alkylene)-C(O)OR^6, -(C_0-C_{10} alkylene)-C(O)NR^6R^7, -(C_0-C_{10} alkylene)-OC(O)NR^6R^7, -NO_2, -(C_0-C_{10} alkylene)-NR^6R^7, -O-(C_2-C_{10} alkylene)-NR^6R^7, -$NR^6C(O)R^7$, -$NR^6C(O)OR^9$, -$NR^6C(O)NR^7R^8$, -$NR^6S(O)_{0-2}R^9$, -$N(S(O)_{0-2}R^9)_2$, -CHNOR^6, -C(O)NR^6R^7, -C(O)$NR^6NR^6R^7$, -$S(O)_{0-2}NR^6R^7$, -$S(O)_{0-2}R^9$, -O-C(O)-(C_1-C_{10} alkylene)-C(O)NR^6R^7, -OC(O)-(C_1-C_{10} alkylene)-$NR^6C(O)O$-(alkylaryl), -$P(O)(OR^{10})_2$, -(C_1-C_{10} alkylene)-$OSi(alkyl)_3$, -CF_3, -OCF_3, halo, alkoxyalkoxy, alkoxyalkoxyalkoxy, alkoxycarbonylalkoxy, alkoxyarylalkoxy, alkoxyiminoalkyl, alkyldioyl, allyloxy, aryl, arylalkyl, aryloxy, arylalkoxy, aroyl, aroyloxy, aroylaroyloxy, arylalkoxycarbonyl, benzoylbenzoyloxy, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylalkoxy, dioxolanyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heterocyclylcarbonyl, heterocyclylcarbonylalkoxy and –L-M;

wherein optionally one or more carbon atoms of the –(C_0-C_{30} alkylene)- radical of Q^1, Q^2, Q^3, Q^4 and Q^5 is independently replaced by –O-, -C(O)-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, -N(alkyl)-, -N(alkylaryl)- or –NH-;

G is selected from the group consisting of a sugar residue, disugar residue, trisugar residue, tetrasugar residue, sugar acid, amino sugar, amino acid residue, oligopeptide residue comprising 2 to 9 amino acids, trialkylammoniumalkyl radical and –$S(O)_2$-OH, wherein optionally the sugar residue, disugar residue, trisugar residue, tetrasugar residue, sugar acid, amino sugar, amino acid residue or oligopeptide residue of G is substituted with –L-M;

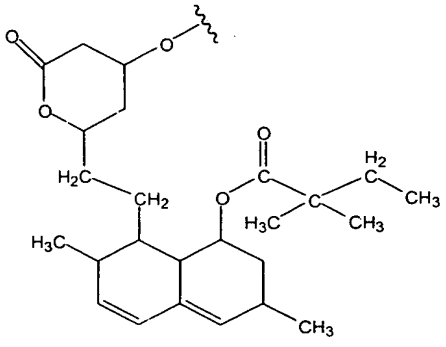
L is selected from the group consisting of



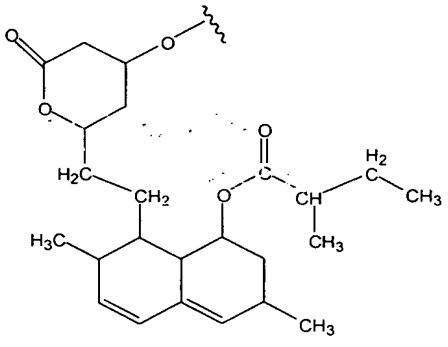


wherein Me is methyl;

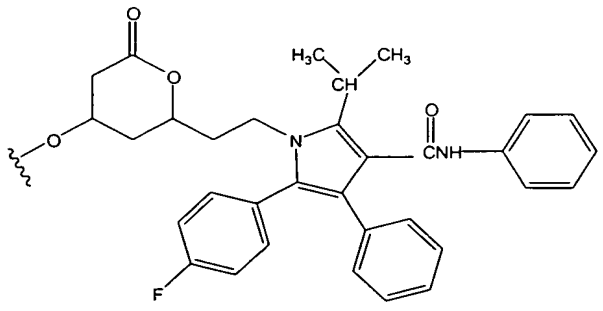
M is selected from the group of moieties consisting of



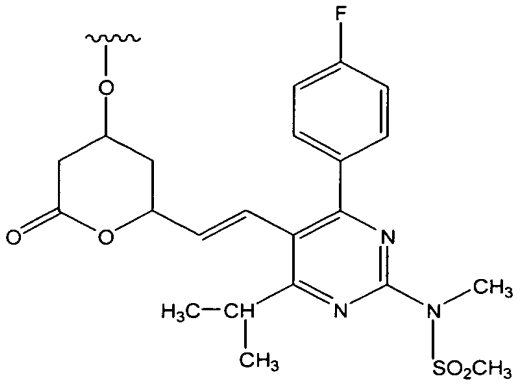
(M1),

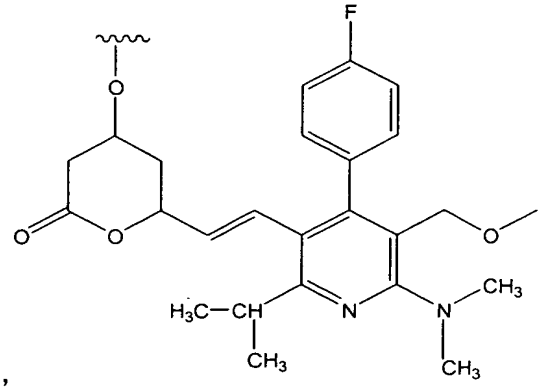


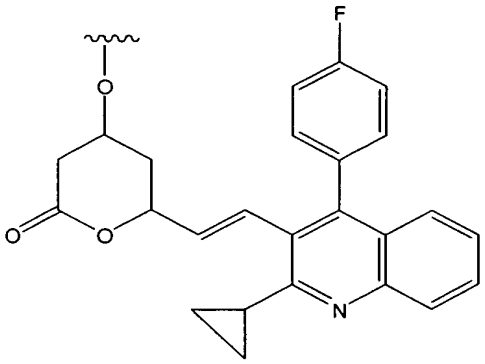
(M2),

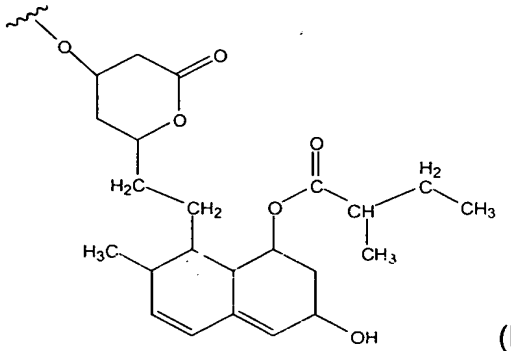


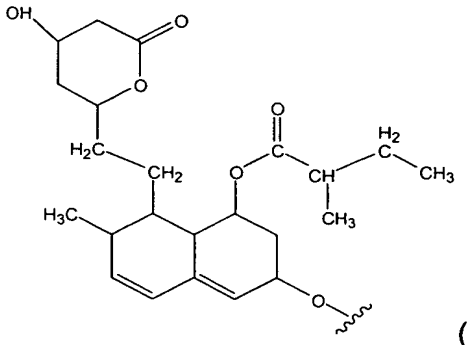
(M3),

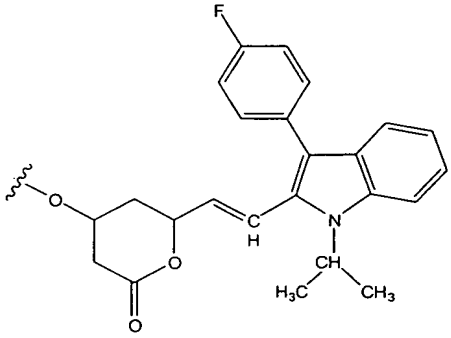

(M4),


(M5),


(M6),


(M7),


(M8),


(M9),

pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the moieties (M1) to (M9) and free acids of the moieties (M1) to (M9);

R^2 and R^3 can be the same or different and each is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl and aryl;

R^6, R^7 and R^8 can be the same or different and each is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl and arylalkyl; and

each R^9 is independently alkyl, aryl or arylalkyl.

each R^{10} is independently H or alkyl;

q is 0 or 1;

r is 0 or 1;

m, n and p are independently selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; provided that at least one of q and r is 1, and the sum of m, n, p, q and r is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6; and provided that when p is 0 and r is 1, the sum of m, q and n is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

x1 is 1 to 10;

x2 is 1 to 10;

x3 is 1 to 10;

x4 is 1 to 10;

x5 is 1 to 10;

x6 is 1 to 10;

x7 is 1 to 10;

x8 is 1 to 10;

x9 is 1 to 10;

x10 is 1 to 10; and

x11 is 1 to 10;

with the proviso that at least one of Q^1, Q^2, Q^3, Q^4 and Q^5 is –L-M or the sugar residue, disugar residue, trisugar residue, tetrasugar residue, sugar acid, amino sugar, amino acid residue or oligopeptide residue of G is substituted with –L-M.

2. The compound according to claim 1, wherein m, n and r are each zero, q is 1, p is 2, and Z is $-CH_2-$.

3. The compound according to claim 1, wherein m, n and r are each zero, q is 1, p is 2, and Z is $-CH_2-$, Q^1 is $-OR^6$, wherein R^6 is hydrogen and Q^5 is fluorine.

4. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2 and R^3 are each preferably hydrogen.

5. The compound according to claim 1, wherein Q^1 and Q^2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of $-OR^6$, $-O(CO)R^6$, $-O(CO)OR^9$ and $-O(CO)NR^6R^7$.

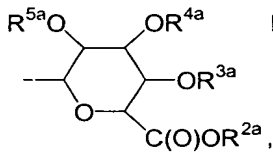
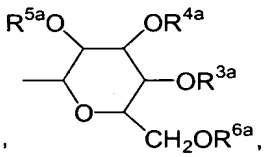
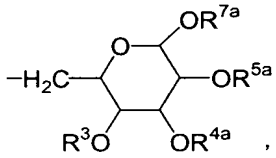
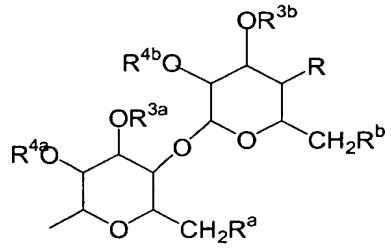
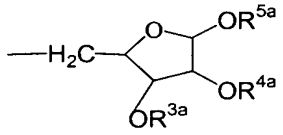
6. The compound according to claim 1, wherein Q^4 is halo or $-OR^6$.

7. The compound according to claim 1, wherein Q^1 is $-OR^6$ wherein R^6 is H.

8. The compound according to claim 1, wherein Q^1, Q^2, Q^3, Q^4 or Q^5 is–L-M.

9. The compound according to claim 1, wherein Q^1, Q^2, Q^3, Q^4 or Q^5 is $-(C_0\text{-}C_{30}$ alkylene)-G.

10. The compound according to claim 1, wherein G is selected from the group consisting of:





and


wherein R, R^a and R^b can be the same or different and each is independently selected from the group consisting of H, -OH, halo, $-NH_2$, azido, alkoxyalkoxy or -W-R^{30};

W is independently selected from the group consisting of -NH-C(O)-, -O-C(O)-, -O-C(O)-N(R^{31})-, -NH-C(O)-N(R^{31})- and -O-C(S)-N(R^{31})-;

R^{2a} and R^{6a} can be the same or different and each is independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, acetyl, aryl and arylalkyl;

R^{3a}, R^{4a}, R^{5a}, R^{7a}, R^{3b} and R^{4b} can be the same or different and each is independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, acetyl, arylalkyl, -C(O)alkyl and -C(O)aryl;

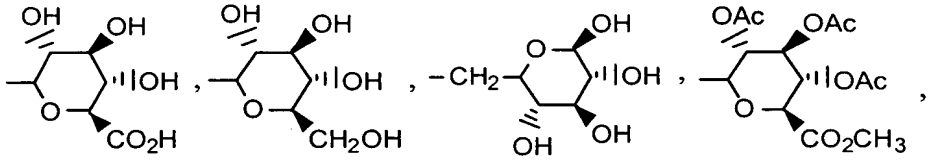
R^{30} is independently selected from the group consisting of R^{32}-substituted T, R^{32}-substituted-T-alkyl, R^{32}-substituted-alkenyl, R^{32}-substituted-alkyl, R^{32}-substituted-cycloalkyl and R^{32}-substituted-cycloalkylalkyl;

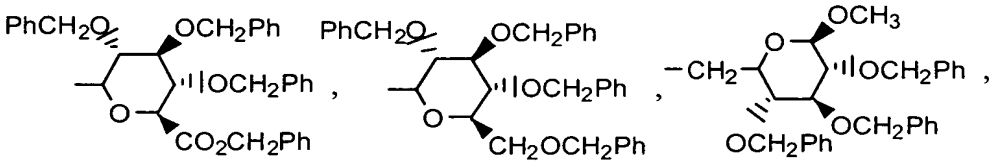
R^{31} is independently selected from the group consisting of H and alkyl;

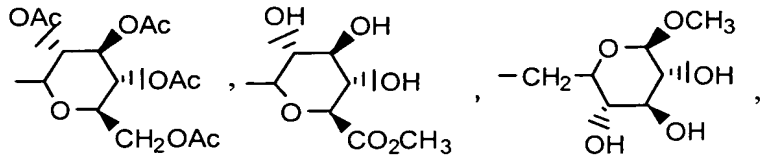
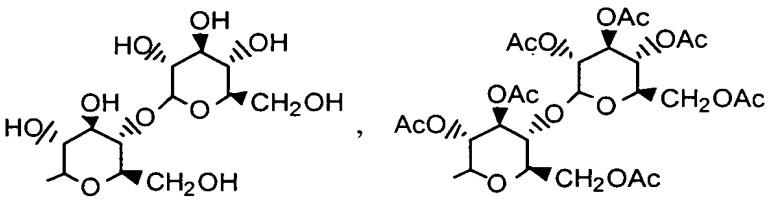
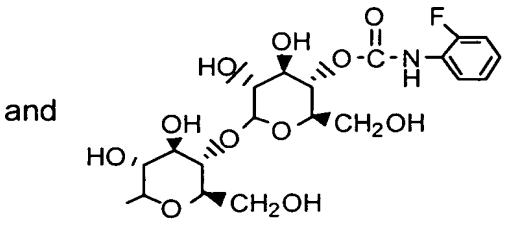
T is independently selected from the group consisting of phenyl, furyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolyl and pyridyl;

R^{32} is 1 to 3 substituents which are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, halo, alkyl, -OH, phenoxy, $-CF_3$, $-NO_2$, alkoxy, methylenedioxy, oxo, alkylsulfanyl, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, $-N(CH_3)_2$, -C(O)-NHalkyl, -C(O)-N(alkyl)2, -C(O)-alkyl, -C(O)-alkoxy and pyrrolidinylcarbonyl; or R^{32} is a covalent bond and R^{31}, the nitrogen to which it is attached and R^{32} form a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, N-methyl-piperazinyl, indolinyl or morpholinyl group, or a alkoxycarbonyl-substituted pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, N-methylpiperazinyl, indolinyl or morpholinyl group.

11. The compound according to claim 10, wherein G is selected from:



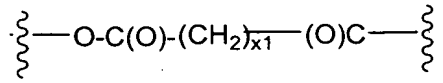


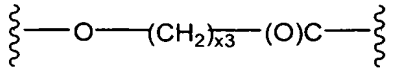
wherein Ac is acetyl and Ph is phenyl.

12. The compound according to claim 1, wherein optionally one or more carbon atoms of the –(C_0-C_{30} alkylene)- radical of Q^1, Q^2, Q^3, Q^4 and Q^5 is independently replaced by –O -.

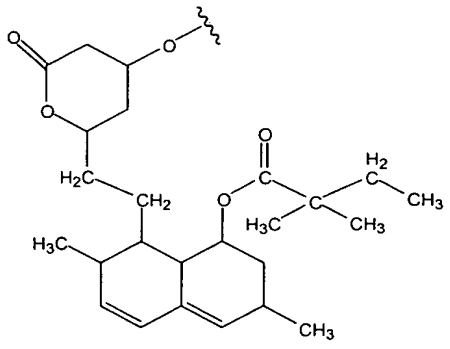
13. The compound according to claim 1, wherein L is



14. The compound according to claim 1, wherein L is

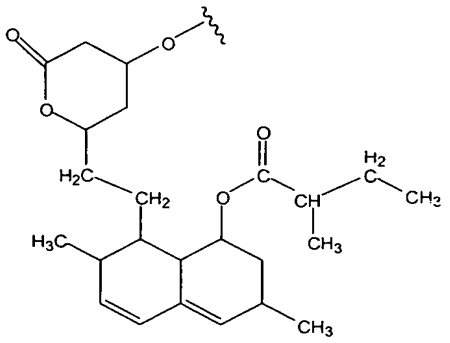


15. The compound according to claim 1, wherein M is



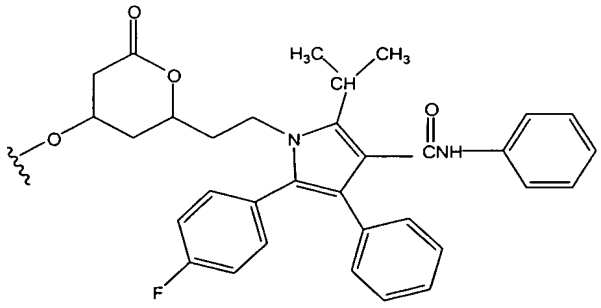
(M1) or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

16 The compound according to claim 1, wherein M is



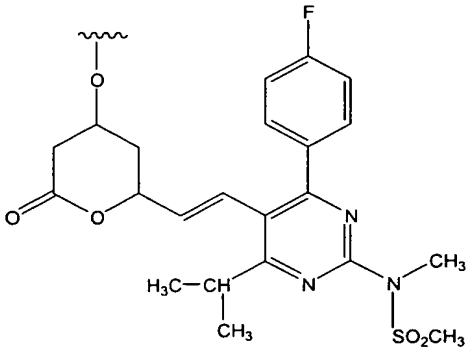
(M2) or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

17. The compound according to claim 1, wherein M is



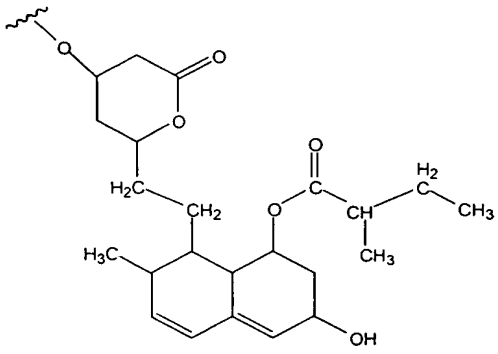
(M3) or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

18. The compound according to claim 1, wherein M is



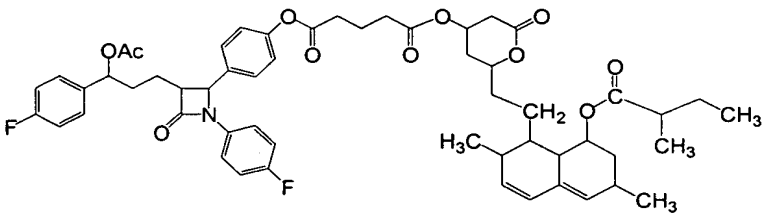
(M4) or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

19. The compound according to claim 1, wherein M is

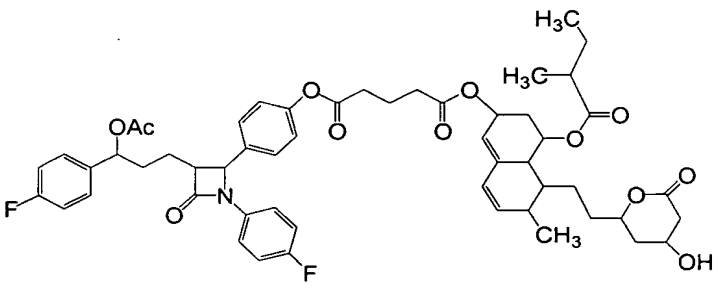


(M7) or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

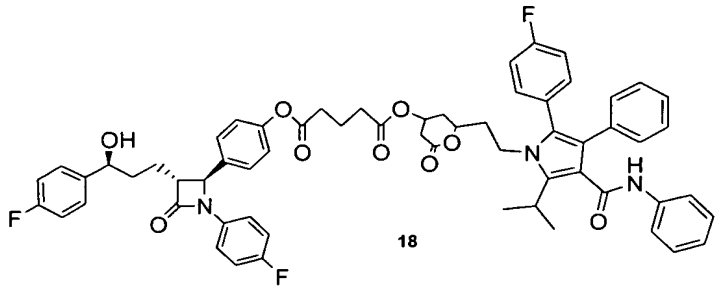
20. The compound according to claim 1, which is selected from the group consisting of



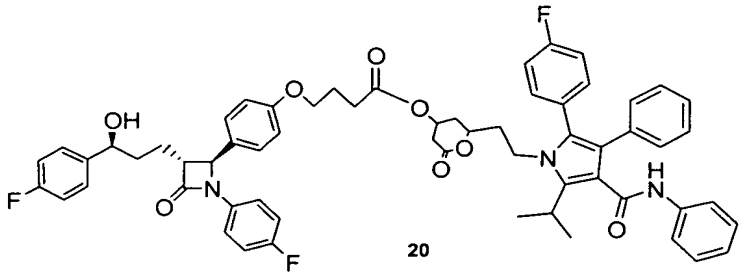
15A (II),



15 (III),



(IV) and



(V).

21. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity, stroke, lowering a concentration of a sterol or stanol in plasma of a mammal, preventing demyelination or treating Alzheimer's disease and/or regulating levels of amyloid β peptides in a subject comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a cholesterol-lowering effective amount of a compound of claim 1 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

23. A method of treating or preventing a vascular condition, diabetes, obesity, stroke, lowering a concentration of a sterol or stanol in plasma of a mammal, preventing demyelination or treating Alzheimer's disease or regulating a level of an amyloid β peptide in a subject comprising the step of administering to a subject in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

24. A method of lowering cholesterol level in plasma of a mammal in need of such treatment comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of the compound of claim 1.